

IMPRESSIONS OF EXPERT

Conditions at Panama as Seen by
Engineer Commissioner of
District of Columbia.

FOUND BUT LITTLE SICKNESS

Water Supply to Be Well Looked
After—Frenchman's Work to
Be Utilized as Much as
Possible.

When on the Isthmus of Panama, as the guest of the Panama canal commission, Colonel John Biddle, engineer commissioner of the District of Columbia, was a close student of the many problems of engineering which present themselves in the construction of the great waterway. Colonel Biddle spent most of the month of August, being his time of annual leave, in the canal zone, and was in the closest touch with the members of the commission.

The colonel was pleased to find the climate so moderate and a dearth of sickness. Both of these facts, he calculates, reduces the difficulties of building the canal from ocean to ocean. There are sufficient problems to be

is chosen. Gigantic engineering tests must be accomplished with water. Rivers must be coaxed to new courses or, indeed, diverted from one ocean to the other. Hills must be cut down and carried away.

The French excavated a canal at sea level for 10 or 15 miles on the Atlantic side and two or three miles on the Pacific. It has also cut down along the line of the canal, in varying amounts, extending over a greater part of the way.

Much of its work can be made available, no matter what type of canal is built, although extra dimensions to accommodate the largest vessels afloat and to strengthen the canal at certain points will necessitate a rehandling of some of the material excavated. Most of the work by the French will probably be a distinct gain.

The dredges left by the company as a rule are of a type not used today for the reason of the great development in excavation machinery in the last 15 or 20 years, and also among the larger contrivances, on account of rust. The small machinery such as engines, cars, rails and the supplies distributed along the line, which have been housed, will be of value. The time, the cost, or the number of men to be employed can not be determined until the commission gathers its statistics as to the cost of building a canal according to the various types.

We Ship Prunes.

The exportation of prunes from the

than any structure in Washington, with the exception of the capitol, the plans calling for an edifice 530 feet in length by 300 feet in width. Part of the new structure will stand immediately over what was once a portion of the old Chesapeake and Ohio canal, which formerly ran directly through the heart of Washington, but now terminates at Georgetown, the section that formerly traversed the capital having been filled up after the civil war.

BLEW TOP OF HEAD OFF.

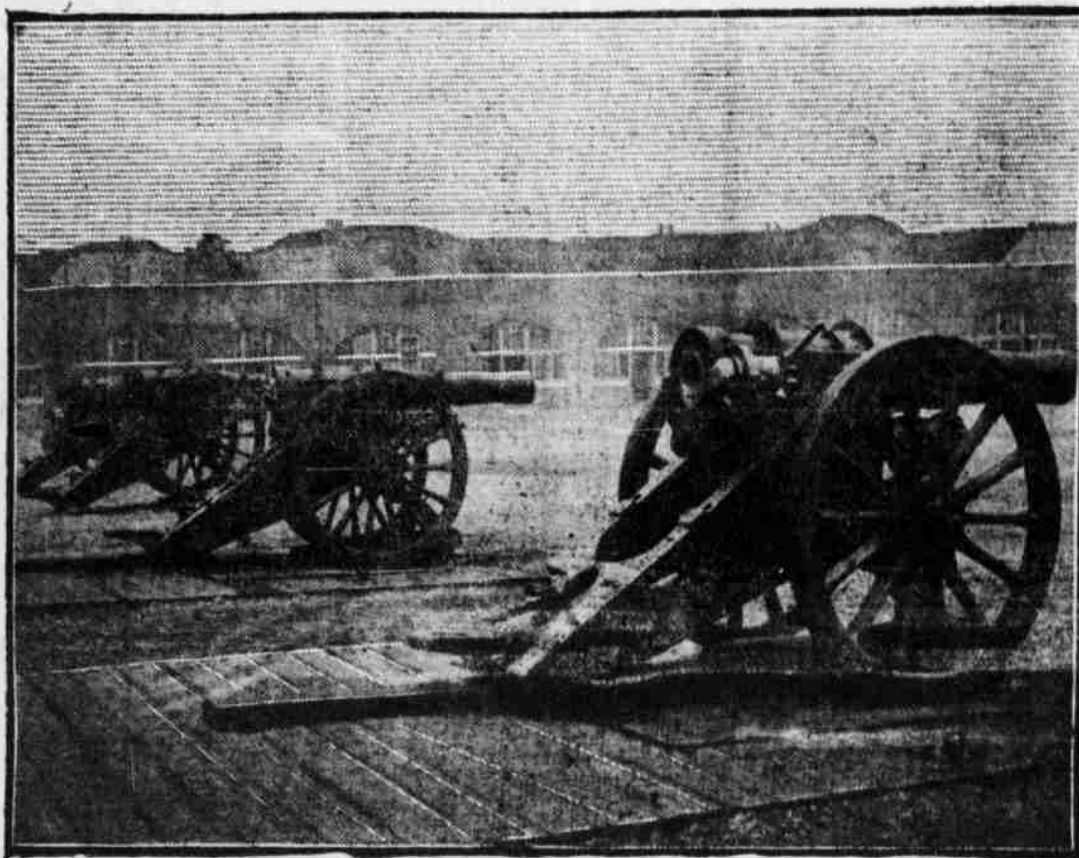
Rancher Near Boring Grows Despondent and Commits Suicide.

Sam Schwartz, a rancher of Boring, Clackamas county, killed himself Monday night by blowing off the top of his head with a shotgun. Coroner Finley returned from the place yesterday, after holding an inquest.

Schwartz was suffering from a cancer which he believed to be incurable. In a fit of despondency he went to his barn, held his head over an old-fashioned squirrel gun of the muzzle-loading type and touched off the trigger with his foot. Death must have been instantaneous. The deceased left a wife and two children.

Would Lynch Motorman.

Chicago, Sept. 8.—Fifteen hundred residents of the north side Italian settlement have threatened to lynch the motorman and conductor of a trolley car which ran over and killed Manolo Manzello, seven years old, and seri-



SIX-INCH HOWITZER GUNS

The six-inch Guns here shown gives an excellent idea of the weapon which the Japanese are using with telling effect from the hills surrounding Port Arthur.

solved, however, to require the best brains of the country and he is unserved in his praise of the men who have been invested with authority to perform the work. Particularly does he speak highly of Chief Engineer Wallace.

One of the first matters to receive attention is the water supply not alone to the occupants of the zone now and during the construction of the canal, but of the cities of Panama and Colon. While the commission has been on the ground for only a short time much attention has been given to the supply for Panama and Colon. Under the treaty, while these cities are not within the zone, 10 miles wide and about 47 miles long, the United States must provide water and sewerage facilities for the cities, with provision concerning the final ownership of the plant.

The engineer commissioner was asked concerning the reports of difference of level of the waters in the Pacific and the Atlantic. He replied that on the Pacific side there is a tide of from 15 to 20 feet, while on the Atlantic there is a tide of about two. The high tide on the western side is responsible for the many marshes, which are covered with water at high tide. These afford nesting places for mosquitoes, which are much dreaded. He said, however, that he found very few mosquitoes in the zone.

The commission is having surveys and borings made at different points to enable them to determine the cost and time necessary to build the canal according to the different plans. They are making use of much of the data collected by the French company, but will supplement that with data of their own.

From Colonel Biddle it is learned that the commission has by no means decided that the waterway is to be a summit-level or lock canal, as has been generally reported since the project received attention. A sea-level canal is receiving careful consideration. There would be two or three different types possible if the sea level is decided upon, and several if a summit

United States has grown very rapidly in recent years, the total number of pounds exported in 1898, the first year in which a record was made, being, in round terms, 16 millions; in 1902 23 millions; in 1903, 66 millions, and in 1904 will amount to about 74 millions valued at about 3½ million dollars. Germany, France and the United Kingdom are the principal customers for this class of American fruit, the total quantity sent to Germany in the fiscal year 1903 being 15½ million pounds; France, 16 millions, and the United Kingdom, 15 millions; while Belgium took nearly 5 million pounds, Netherlands nearly 4 millions and Canada about 4½ millions. Of the 66 million pounds of prunes exported in 1903, 9 millions went from San Francisco and 53½ millions from New York, although they are chiefly the product of the Pacific coast.—Ex.

What Is Life?

In the last analysis nobody knows, but we do know that it is under strict law. Abuse that law even slightly, pain results. Irregular living means derangement of the organs, resulting in constipation, headache or liver trouble. Dr. King's New Life Pills quickly adjusts this. It's gentle, yet thorough. Only 25c at Chas. Rogers' drug store.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM.

How the Institution Was Brought Into Existence.

In March, 1903, congress appropriated the sum of \$3,500,000 for the erection of a new national museum building, it being a fact well known to Washingtonians that now, and for some time past, a considerable portion of the 5,000,000 specimens, both great and small, owned by the national museum have remained in storage for lack of exhibition space, says the Washington Star. As soon, therefore, as the appropriation had been granted, plans were prepared, and, on June 15, 1904, ground was broken for the formation of the new building, which, when completed, will cover more ground space

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